

Remarks

Election of Species Requirement

The Examiner has issued an Election of Species requirement for the instant application and required Applicants to designate which claims should be placed within each disclosed species. Applicants have divided pending Claims 1-9 into the following species:

Species I	Figure 1 –	Claim 1
Species II	Figures 3 and 4 –	Claims 2-4
Species III	Figures 5 and 6 –	Claims 5-8
Species IV	Figure 7 -	Claim 9

Applicants hereby elect **Species II, Figures 3 and 4, Claims 2-4** with traverse.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's statement that no claim is currently generic. Applicants courteously point out that Claim 1, the only independent claim in the instant application, claims elements found in each of the species defined by the Examiner. Species I, as seen in Figure 1, depicts a microtome with a base mounted illumination system which is claimed in lines 2-3 of Claim 1. Species II, Figures 3 and 4 depicts an alternate embodiment of illumination system which is claimed in lines 2-3 of Claim 1. Species III, Figures 3 and 4 depicts an incident illumination system claimed in lines 3-4 of Claim 1. Species IV, Figure 7 shows a light source acting as an internal illumination system and is claimed in lines 4-5 of Claim 1.

MPEP § 806.04 (d) defines a generic claim as a claim that reads on each view of the separate species. Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1, by claiming elements found in each of the figures, does in fact read on the figures in each species. Therefore Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the election of species requirement and the initiation of examination of claims 1-9 on the merits.

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Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for examination on the merits, which action is courteously requested. The Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney of record if such contact will facilitate an efficient examination and allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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